

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An image-forming apparatus comprising:  
a color image inputting unit for inputting a color image;  
a printer unit for printing a monochrome image;  
an interface to which an external color printer can be connected; and  
a control unit for determining whether a color image inputted from the color image inputting unit is printed on the printer unit as a monochrome image, or printed on the external color printer as a color image.

2. The image-forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the color image inputting unit includes a color image scanner unit for scanning a color image.

3. The image-forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the color image inputting unit includes a LAN interface.

4. The image-forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the color image inputting unit includes a network control unit and a modem.

5. The image-forming apparatus according to claim 1, further including an image conversion unit for converting an inputted color image to a monochrome image.

6. The image-forming apparatus according to claim 5, further including an operation unit for enabling the setting of parameters to the image conversion unit when a color image is converted to a monochrome image.

7. The image-forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the color image inputting unit includes the image conversion unit.

8. The image-forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the printer unit includes the image conversion unit.

9. The image-forming apparatus according to claim 1, further including an operation unit for allowing a user to select whether an inputted image is printed in black and white, or printed in color,

wherein, based on input from the operation unit, the control unit determines whether the image is printed on the printer unit, or printed on the external color printer.

10. The image-forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control unit judges whether an image inputted by the color image inputting unit is black-and-white or color, and when the control unit judges the image is black-and-white, the control unit causes the image to be printed on the printer unit, and when the control unit judges the image is color, the control unit causes the image to be printed on a color printer via the interface.

11. The image-forming apparatus according to claim 1, further including a message output unit for making notification to a user,

wherein the control unit communicates to a user via the message output unit a message that printing on a color printer is completed.

12. The image-forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein a plurality of color printers are connected to the apparatus, and the message includes information as to which color printer has performed the printing.

13. The image-forming apparatus according to claim 11, further including a display unit for displaying the message.

14. The image-forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the control unit causes the message to be printed on the printer unit.

15. The image-forming apparatus according to claim 11, further including a network control unit capable of connecting the apparatus to a public switched telephone network,

wherein the message is transmitted to a user through the public switched telephone network.

16. The image-forming apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the message is a voice message.

17. The image-forming apparatus according to claim 15, further including a modem which is connected to the network control unit, wherein the message is transmitted to a user by facsimile.

18. The image-forming apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the interface includes a LAN interface, and the message is transmitted to a user through the LAN interface,

19. An image-forming apparatus comprising:  
color image inputting means for inputting a color image;  
printer means for printing a monochrome image;  
means for enabling an external color printer to be connected to the apparatus; and  
control means for determining whether the color image inputted from the color image inputting means is printed on the printer means as a monochrome image, or printed on the external color printer as a color image.

20. A method of forming an image, comprising the steps of  
(A) determining whether an image is printed in color or in black and white;  
(B) printing the image in color on an external color printer, when the determination that the image should be printed in color has been made in Step (A); and  
(C) printing the image in black and white on an inside printer, when the determination that the image should be printed in black and white has been made in Step (A).